BE CAREFUL WITH THAT PRETTY FACE, GOSLING

THE STAR DISCUSSES HOW HE WENT 'BEYOND' FOR HIS NEW FILM. PAGE 16

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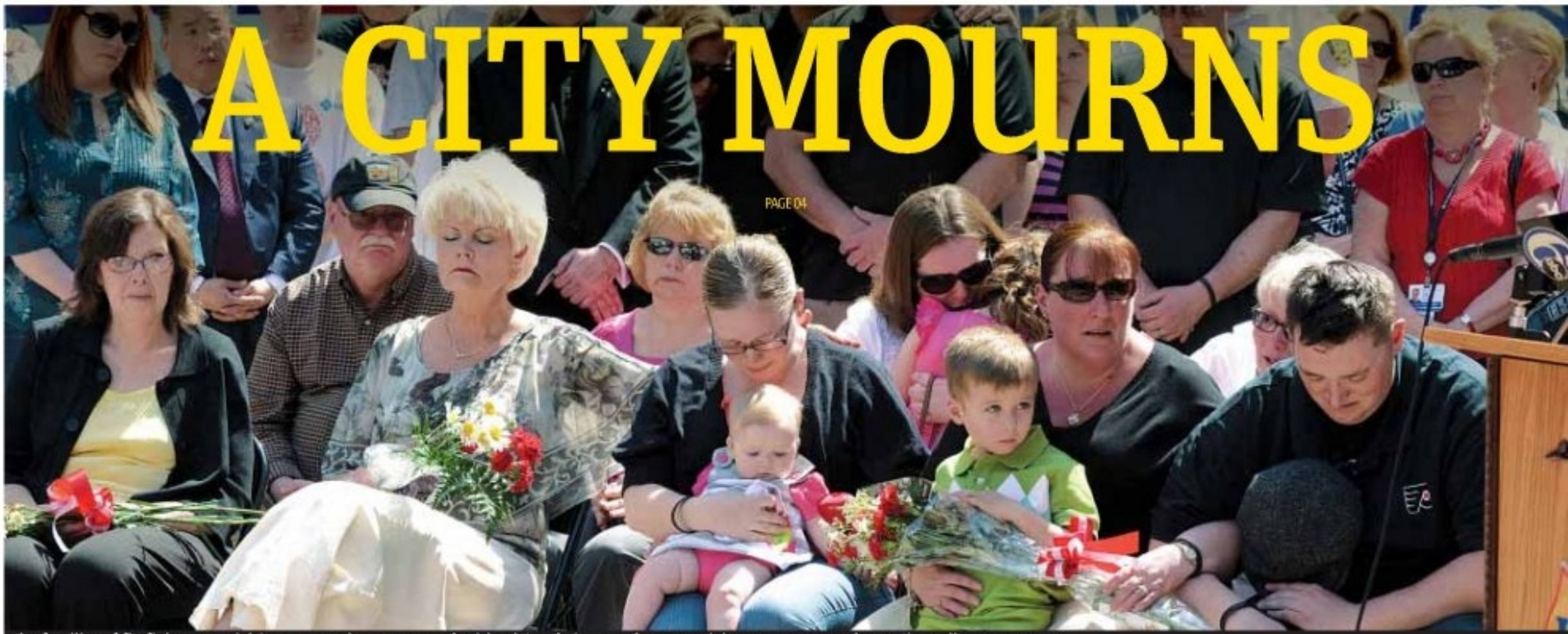
A CITY MOURNS

PAGE 04



The families of firefighters Daniel Sweeney, Robert Neary and Michael Goodwin attend a memorial ceremony yesterday at City Hall. / RIKARD LARMA

Gun reform. Nutter and Rendell call on Toomey

Mayor says inaction has been "puzzling." PAGE 02

Films. New exploration to 'Mars' on the horizon

There will be a "Veronica Mars" movie in 2014. PAGE 17

Everybody's getting high downtown

PAGE 19

I've heard that name before!

PAGE 30

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1 NEWS

Busted

10K

Delaware State Police seized more than 10,000 bags of heroin valued at more than $100,000 Monday, police said. Daniel Diaz, 33, was under surveillance for weeks before he was stopped while driving along I-95. He was also carrying more than $2,500 in cash.

Local Tweet

"I would love to come back to Philly, loved my time there, amazing fans."

@royoswalt44net, former Phillies pitcher Roy Oswalt, also said, "I haven't felt this good since 2010." Hint, hint.

Winning

Double Powerball winners at Lehigh Valley station

Lightning has struck twice in the Lehigh Valley.

The same North Whitehall Township Hess Express gas station that sold the $1 million Powerball ticket in the March 23 drawing also sold a $2 million ticket in Saturday's drawing, Pennsylvania Lottery officials said.

The ticket missed the red Powerball, 24, but matched all five white balls — 04, 07, 08, 29, 39 — and hit the Power Play, which notched the prize up to $2 million. The gas station will receive a $10,000 bonus. METRO

Slain

Man stabbed to death in North Philly

A 23-year-old man was stabbed to death in North Philadelphia early yesterday.

Jeffrey Thompson was killed around 12:45 a.m. on the 800 block of North 13th Street, near Poplar Street, police said.

Thompson was reportedly stabbed multiple times in his chest and leg following an argument. METRO

Politics

Former rep. may seek old House seat

A former Democratic legislator is considering a run to reclaim her old seat in Congress, reports say.

Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky may run for the U.S. House of Representatives out of the state's 13th District. Margolies-Mezvinsky, a former TV journalist and an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania, served one term in Congress in the '90s. METRO

Movita Johnson-Harrell lost her son to gun violence two years ago. / RIKARD LARMA

Pols protest for gun-law reform

Rally. Advocates with CeaseFirePA and local lawmakers call on Sen. Pat Toomey to stand up against gun violence.

Mayor Michael Nutter and former Gov. Ed Rendell joined activists yesterday at a rally outside the office of Sen. Pat Toomey (R–Pa.), calling for him to support a package of legislation aimed at limiting gun violence.

"There is no other type of tragedy in this country that we would allow to go on for so long," Nutter said. "Not car accidents, not trains, not a bag of spinach on the shelf – if it was found to hurt somebody, every one of them would be taken away."

So, Nutter said, federal lawmakers' inaction in passing reforms has been puzzling – some Republicans in the Senate have been threatening to filibuster their mere discussion. He said he supports a rigorous debate but it must lead to action. "That's what this country was started about right here in the cradle of liberty, freedom and democracy," he said. "But they didn't debate forever about whether to have a Declaration of Independence — they had a good debate and then they passed one."

Rendell said Toomey called him Monday and vowed he'll vote against the filibuster, but he also wants the senator to sign on to a bill being hammered out by Sen. Joe Manchin (D–W.Va.) requiring background checks for all gun sales.

"Sen. Manchin is working hard, but he needs a Republican sponsor," Rendell said. "Sen. Toomey has been talking to Sen. Manchin, and I believe they are close."

Advocates are further urging Toomey to support legislation cracking down on straw firearm purchases and limiting magazine clips to 10 bullets. "Why would anybody need a clip with more than 10 rounds in it?" Nutter said. "You're not shooting a bear, you're not shooting an elk, you're not shooting deer, and, as a matter of fact, it is against Pennsylvania law to use that high-capacity weapon to shoot or hunt game. We have more regulations about what you can do on our hunting grounds than we have about what you can do on the streets of our city."

Mourning

Face of grief

Movita Johnson-Harrell wore a T-shirt printed with a photo of her son Charles, who was fatally shot at the age of 18. One of his two convicted killers was sentenced last Friday.

"I requested mercy for him because he seemed very remorseful and I believe he was a product of his environment," Johnson-Harrell said. "I truly believe if he didn't have access to a gun, my son wouldn't have been murdered."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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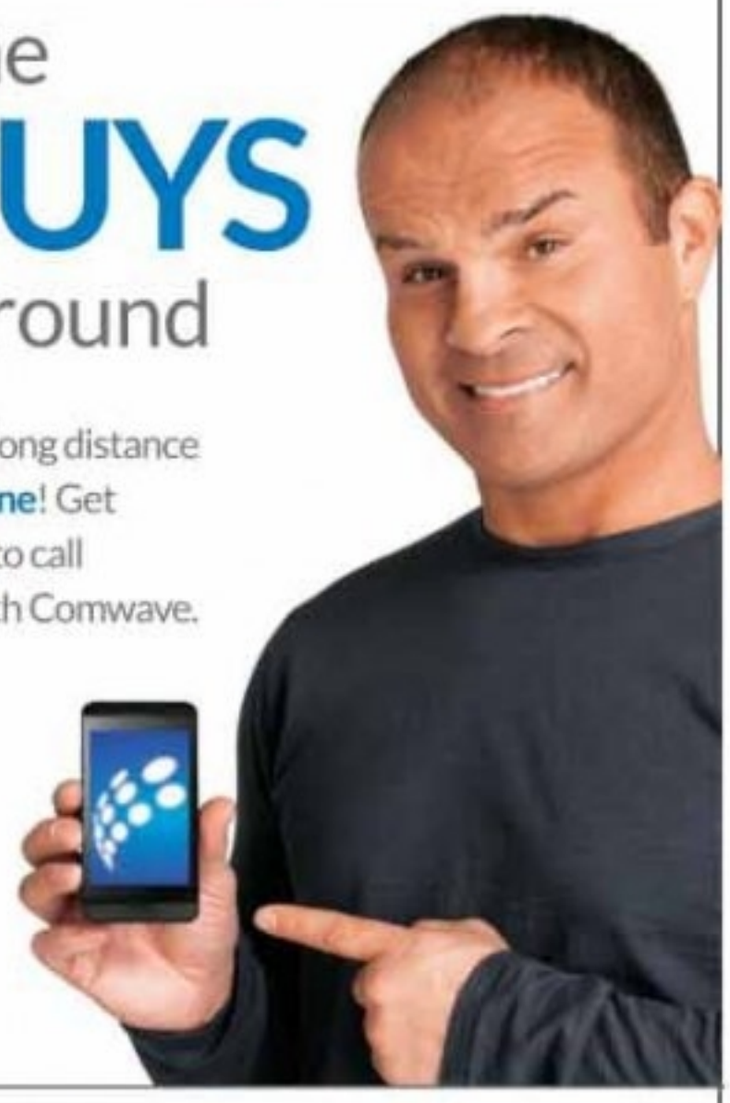

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Family and friends paid their respects yesterday for all three firefighters. / RIKARD LARMA

City mourns firefighters killed on duty

Remembering. Firefighters held a memorial service outside City Hall to honor three lost in the line of duty.

Firefighters and loved ones yesterday memorialized three of their brethren lost in the line of duty within the past year, solemnly laying wreaths to the groans of a bagpipe troupe.

"It has been a difficult year," Marion Sweeney said. "We've lost a son, one of my babies."

Daniel Sweeney and Lt. Robert Neary were killed a year ago in a five-alarm Kensington warehouse fire. In an awful twist of fate, Capt. Michael Goodwin was killed battling a blaze Saturday.

"We cling to the hope that someday we'll see Daniel and he'll be reunited with my husband and myself," Sweeney said. "And happy anniversary to my husband," she finished tearfully. "Our son died on our 29th wedding anniversary."

Mayor Michael Nutter, who remains locked in a fierce contract dispute with firefighters union Local 22, instead held an event announcing the inaugural Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service. He said Deputy Mayor Everett Gillison attended the service on the administration's behalf. As far as Local 22 goes, officials said yesterday wasn't the time to talk politics.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

Quoted

"I can't be in two places at once. As you can see, I organized this event. I spent yesterday with the family."
NUTTER

Accident

NJ boy, 4, accidentally shoots friend, 6, with rifle

A 6-year-old boy from Toms River, N.J., is in stable condition after his 4-year-old neighbor accidentally shot him in the head with a rifle Monday night while the two were playing outside, police said. It is unknown if the trigger was pulled or the rifle accidentally discharged.
METRO

Music. Who will play at this year's Made in America concert?

Jay-Z will announce the lineup for the second installment of the Made in America Festival today at noon on the digital music streaming website Spotify.

But no matter the lineup, the Labor Day weekend event is expected to make the city money. Last year, the festival generated about $10 million for the city.
METRO

Could Eddie Vedder return?
GETTY IMAGES

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Man sleeps outside for doughnuts

Sugar high. A man camped out for three days awaiting the Haverford Krispy Kreme opening.

Timothy Folkomer was the first person in line yesterday for the 6:30 a.m. opening of the Haverford Krispy Kreme, netting him free weekly doughnut deliveries for a year.

The geological and educational consultant said he'd been camping out there since 10:30 a.m. Sunday after his Bible-study class.

The three-day excursion wasn't Folkomer's first — he also camped out seven years ago for the opening of the Springfield Krispy Kreme.

And he wasn't entirely alone.

"This morning, one of the Haverford Police came and said, 'We just want you to know you were sound asleep the whole night and we watched you all night,'" he said. "I thanked them and I told them that there'd be two dozen doughnuts coming to the Haverford police station next week, and the policeman said, 'We have been known never to refuse doughnuts.'"

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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Timothy Folkomer, right, waits with Edward Herms, left.
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Bank

Washington Square bank robbed

Philadelphia police and the FBI are asking for the public's help identifying a man they say robbed a TD Bank at Washington Square on Saturday.

The man robbed the bank, at 111 S. 11th St., around 9 a.m. Police describe the suspect as a white male, about 40 years old and roughly 6 feet tall. METRO

Robberies

Fox Chase bank robbed

Police are looking for the man who they say robbed the Beneficial Bank in Fox Chase on April 5.

Investigators with the FBI and Philadelphia Police Department Violent Crimes Task Force say the man, who used a semiautomatic handgun, is described as a black male, about 6 feet tall, stocky and about 40 years old. METRO

Arson. Volunteer firefighter, two teens arrested for arson

A volunteer firefighter and two 19-year-old men were charged with arson yesterday for allegedly setting fire to a historic Bucks County mansion, police said.

Nicholas Ricciardi, 21, a volunteer Bristol Township firefighter, Dennis Rose III and Michael Kurfuss deliberately set fire to Croydon Mansion, a 237-year-old historic site, in Bensalem Township on Feb. 22 with the intent to destroy it, according to a news release.

Bristol Township Police identified the three as members of a group dubbed the Black Flag Family gang. The trio has been in custody since the end of February after being arrested for an alleged armed robbery in Bristol Township.

Bail was set individually at 10 percent of $200,000. METRO

Nicholas Ricciardi

Michael Kurfuss

Dennis Rose III

College student wounds 14 in stabbing spree

Harris County Sheriff officers seal off the campus after at least 14 people were injured in a stabbing incident at the Cy-Fair campus of Lone Star College yesterday. / GETTY IMAGES

School safety.
Attacks have prompted calls for tighter security at U.S. schools.

A male student went on a stabbing spree at a community college in northwest Houston yesterday, injuring at least 14 people, two of them critically, Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia said. The campus was sealed off.

Garcia said at a press conference that an emergency call came in at 11:12 a.m. local time: "Male on the loose stabbing people."

A 21-year-old male, a student at Lone Star College near Houston, was detained. Police did not release his name. Garcia declined to say what type of weapon the man used, although the injuries were mostly lacerations.

The campus, part of a Texas community college network with nearly 19,000 students, was on lockdown and being methodically searched by police.

"This is a sprawling campus," Harris County Sheriff's Department spokesman Alan Bernstein said on CNN. "It will take a long time to get through all these buildings, to interview everybody."

The suspect is believed to have acted alone, Garcia said. Earlier in the day, police had said they were searching for a possible second suspect.

Of the 14 injured, two were in critical condition, four in fair condition and eight others had minor injuries, Garcia said.

In January, at another campus of Lone Star College in the Houston area, three people were shot. Yesterday's incident was the latest of several attacks at schools across the country in the last year. REUTERS

911 call

"Male on the loose stabbing people."

Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia

Said at a press conference that the emergency call came at 11:12 a.m. local time

Senate majority

Reid says he will hold first vote on gun control bill

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid yesterday said he has scheduled an initial vote for tomorrow on a controversial gun control bill. REUTERS

Sen. McConnell

FBI asked to probe recording

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell's reelection campaign said yesterday it has asked the FBI to investigate how a campaign strategy meeting was recorded. REUTERS

Politics

Nominee vows to run Medicare as a 'business'

President Barack Obama's nominee to lead the huge agency that runs Medicare and Medicaid got rare bipartisan praise yesterday, but faced tough questions about healthcare reform and a recent controversial decision on Medicare Advantage payment rates.

Testifying before the Senate Finance Committee, Marilyn Tavenner said her role would be to run Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services both as a business and as a partner with many healthcare entities for the benefit of all. REUTERS

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Penis size: Study says women do care

Science. Tall men with wide shoulders and an impressive "offering" were deemed most attractive.

Whatever magazines and advice columnists soothingly claim, women do care about the size of a man's penis, according to new research from Australia.

Scientists at the University of Canberra say the average length of the human male member is much larger than evolution would naturally demand for breeding purposes. And they posit that it grew over the eons to reflect the preference of women for a longer penis in potential mates.

Before homo sapien males started wearing clothing, their genitals would have been easily spotted by potential female partners, said the University's Brian Mautz.

So there would be no need for the penis to grow in size — apart from the fact that over the years, men with a heftier package had more luck in attracting women, he added.

"We found that male attractiveness is significantly influenced by penis size. More specifically, we found that large penises are rated as relatively more attractive than smaller ones," he said.

Twenty-first century women show the same preference his team concluded.

They showed images of naked men to 100 Australian women, altering the length of the penis. The woman showed a marked attractiveness preference for the images where men were better endowed. Other factors, such as having wider shoulders or hips, increased male attractiveness.

Tall men with both wide shoulders and an impressive offering in the underpant department were most attractive of all, they added.

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Earthquake

6.3 quake near Iran's nuclear city Bushehr, 37 dead

Iran quake / GETTY IMAGES

A powerful earthquake struck close to Iran's only nuclear power station yesterday, killing 37 people and injuring 850 as it destroyed homes and devastated two small villages.

The quake totally destroyed one village, a Red Crescent official told the Iranian Students' News Agency, but the nearby Bushehr nuclear plant was undamaged, according to Iranian officials and the Russian company that built it.

"This tragedy has deepened and we have seen the destruction of many homes in the region," the governor of Bushehr province, Fereydoun Hassanvand, told Mehr news agency.

REUTERS

Spelling Bee adds vocabulary to format

Young contestants at the Scripps National Spelling Bee will face a new challenge this year — not only having to spell obscure words, but also to know what they mean for the first time since it started in 1927. / GETTY IMAGES

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THE COURT AT THE KING OF PRUSSIA MALL
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA
UPPER LEVEL BETWEEN BLOOMINGDALE'S & CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN
MON-SAT: 10AM-9PM
SUN: 11AM-6PM

RAPID CASH FOR GOLD
GRANITE RUN MALL
MEDIA, PA
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Withdraw. France pulls out from Mali after anti-Islamist offensive

France has started withdrawing its troops from Mali after an operation to help local forces push back an offensive by Islamist rebels, an army spokesman said yesterday.

Paris aims to complete the withdrawal of 3,000 soldiers this year and will keep a permanent, 1,000-strong combat force in the former colony to support a U.N. peacekeeping mission of African forces.

Despite concerns over persistent Islamist attacks in the north and the lack of security in many areas, France is pressing Mali's interim government to organize national elections to complete a democratic transition after a March 2012 coup.

"It's the start of the pullout," French Army Col. Thierry Burkhard said. "The aim is to be down to 2,000 in July."

Burkhard said that about 100 men from a parachute regiment that had been based in Tessalit, in the foothills of the Adrar des Ifoghas mountain range, had now left Mali. REUTERS

Replacement

Mali to give France new camel after first one is eaten

Malian authorities will give French President Francois Hollande another camel after the one they gave him in thanks for helping repel Islamist rebels was killed and eaten by the family he left it with in Timbuktu, an official in Mali said.

A local government official in northern Mali said yesterday that a replacement would be sent to France.

"As soon as we heard of this, we quickly replaced it with a bigger and better-looking camel," said the official, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

"The new camel will be sent to Paris. We are ashamed of what happened to the camel. It was a present that did not deserve this fate," the official said.

Hollande was presented with the camel when he visited Mali in February. REUTERS

South Korean soldiers wear gas masks as a K-55 self-propelled howitzer drives past at a military training field on the border city of Paju.
GETTY IMAGES

N. Korea warns foreigners to leave South amid threats

Broadcast. The warning was read aloud on North Korea's state television in a bulletin that interrupted normal programming.

North Korea intensified threats of an imminent conflict against the United States and the South yesterday, warning foreigners to evacuate South Korea to avoid being dragged into "thermonuclear war."

The North's latest message belied an atmosphere free of anxiety in the South Korean capital, where the city center was bustling with traffic and offices operated normally.

Pyongyang has shown no sign of preparing its 1.2 million-strong army for war, indicating the threat could be aimed partly at bolstering Kim Jong-un, 30, the third in his family to lead the country.

The North, which threatens the United States and its "puppet" South Korea, on a daily basis, is marking anniversaries this week that could be accompanied by strong statements or military displays.

The warning to foreigners in the South, reported by the KCNA news agency, said once war broke out "it will be an all-out war, a merciless, sacred, retaliatory war to be waged by [North Korea].

"It does not want to see foreigners in South Korea fall victim to the war," the agency quoted the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee as saying.

"The committee informs all foreign institutions and enterprises and foreigners, including tourists ... that they are requested to take measures for shelter and evacuation in advance for their safety."

None of the embassies in Seoul appeared to have issued any directives to their nationals, and airlines reported no changes in their schedules. REUTERS

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2

CULTURE

Twitter feed

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Amanda Bynes is going on the offensive, Bob Saget has some great culinary tips, Chris Pratt should probably get off Twitter and Dana Delany is having a disagreement with her phone.

@AmandaBynes: I'm suing In Touch for writing another fake story with terrible photographs.

@bobsaget: A veggie Burger can make a delicious late night snack if there's BBQ sauce on it and there's nothing else remotely edible in the kitchen.

@prattprattpratt: ambien. wobble legs. already at =the peanutbuutter. who's out there?n any good qyestions before i fall asleep?

@DanaDelany: Auto correct did not like pubic.

1 The 'Deface Dorothy's Face' contest continues

Last week, I asked you to get creative with my giant new headshot. And you did. Here are a few:

@AnkhiKrolLaw cast me in a starring role in "Boys Don't Cry." (Maybe I should stop waxing?)

@JJS_III turned me into a "terrifying rabbit creature."

@M_ajrseW noted that the fumes in her "#DiscoDorothy" doodle made her dizzy.

@GTIndeed decided I'd look best as a "1920s steel conglomerate tycoon."

I'm not sure how to say "awesome" in Na'vi — but it's the only response to **Ed Harris of Philadelphia**'s submission.

Then there's the entry from **Phoebe**, a 5-year-old New Yorker (my giant head transcends generations). She decided I'd look best as a princess. Her father explained: "After she drew her picture, I dissected it to attach it to your headshot, and she cried. Something about it being the best princess picture she ever did and not understanding why I would cut it up with scissors. Clearly she doesn't fully understand concept art."

Keep 'em coming, readers. Don't let a 5-year-old — no matter how talented she is — show you up.

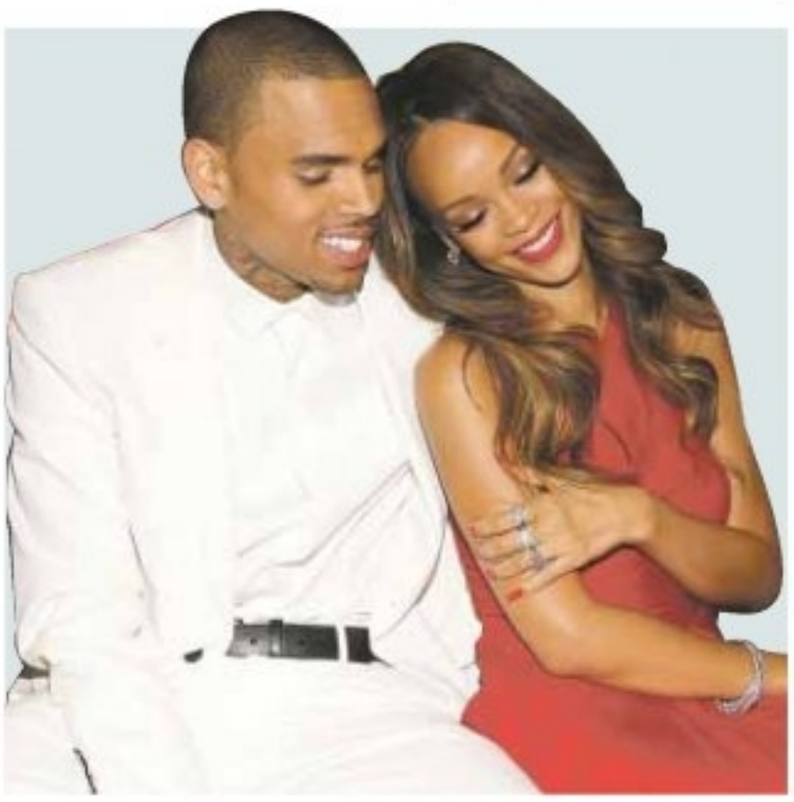
THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip

DOROTHY ROBINSON
@dorothyatmetro
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

2 Chris Brown and Rihanna are no longer. Probably.

The soap opera between Chris Brown and Rihanna continues: The on-again, off-again couple with the rocky past has reportedly called it quits, according to E! News. While Brown has been spotted in New York entertaining a mystery blonde, Rihanna has been finishing up her latest international tour and spending time in L.A. between gigs, but sources say there's no new man in her life and that she's shifting her focus from her love life to planning future tours and launching a new fragrance line.



3 Berry 'feels fantastic'

After confirming that she is pregnant with her second child, Halle Berry is speaking out herself about the joyous news. "I feel fantastic," the Oscar-winner tells CNN of expecting a baby with fiance Olivier Martinez. "This has been the biggest surprise of my life, to tell you the truth. I thought I was kind of past the point where this could be a reality for me. So it's been a big surprise and the most wonderful." While reports have claimed that Berry is expecting a boy, she's playing coy about gender, saying only, "I don't know, I don't know."

4 Bell takes on Bieber's fans

Former "Drake & Josh" star Drake Bell is picking a fight with Justin Bieber's fans online, which may not be the smartest move. "I don't 'hate' Justin Bieber. His fans are the problem," Bell tweeted last month, but this past weekend he really got into it. "I love when beliebers say they loved me on ['Drake & Josh'] but what happened to the old Drake," he wrote. "[Bieber], you have the most insane fans in the world." He also poked fun at Bieber himself, and the stunt inevitably earned him a slew of angry responses. "Putting a moratorium on tweets about beliebers," he finally wrote. "Just wanted to show how sick and twisted people can get."

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CLOSING NIGHT

TWENTY FEET FROM STARDOM 90 MIN

SUN 4/14 | 7:30 | MANDELL THEATER

The untold story of back-up singers, the true heroes when creating a full musical sound.

BIG STAR: NOTHING CAN HURT ME 100 MIN.

SAT 4/13 | 4:15 PM

DAVID BROMBERG: UNSUNG TREASURE 74 MIN.

SAT 4/13 | 7:10 PM

SUN 4/14 | 5:30 PM

FREAK NIGHT 58 MIN.

SAT 4/13 | 10:00 PM

It's a Costume Party!

GREASE SING-A-LONG 110 MIN.

SAT 4/13 | 7:30 PM

THE HISTORY OF FUTURE FOLK 86 MIN.

FRI 4/12 | 6:45 PM

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JAKE SHIMABUKURO: LIFE ON FOUR STRINGS 52 MIN.

FRI 4/12 | 6:45 PM

SUN 4/14 | 1:30 PM

KINSHASA KIDS 85 MIN.

FRI 4/12 | 8:30 PM

SAT 4/13 | 2:45 PM

LOS WILD ONES 77 MIN.

FRI 4/12 | 6:30 PM

SAT 4/13 | 5:00 PM

MUSCLE SHOALS 111 MIN.

SAT 4/13 | 7:00 PM

NARCO CULTURA 102 MIN.

FRI 4/12 | 8:20 PM

SAT 4/13 | 9:30 PM

ONCE IN A LULLABY: THE P.S. 22 CHORUS STORY

89 MIN. SAT 4/13 | 2:00 PM

SUN 4/14 | 1:00 PM

Kids Corner Family Screening on Sunday!

PLEASED TO MEET ME 88 MIN.

FRI 4/12 | 9:30 PM

SUN 4/14 | 3:15 PM

Special Event at Friday Screening

THE PUNK SINGER 80 MIN.

SAT 4/13 | 9:00 PM

SUN 4/14 | 5:25 PM

UNFINISHED SONG 93 MIN.

SUN 4/14 | 3:10 PM

WE JUKE UP IN HERE 60 MIN.

SAT 4/13 | 4:30 PM

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Tom Cruise greets fans at the Taiwan premiere of "Oblivion." / GETTY IMAGES

But is he still

Film. Tom Cruise's latest movies have tanked, but his brand is still going strong.

A year ago, Tom Cruise was riding a wave of good press with a comeback narrative in full swing. His franchise return "Mission: Impossible Ghost Protocol" had reassured Hollywood that audiences still had an appetite for the star after something of a dry patch, eventually bringing in nearly $700 million worldwide at the box office.

And on top of that, he had two high-profile and buzzed-about roles ahead for 2012 — the hair-metal musical "Rock of Ages" and the tough-guy crime thriller "Jack Reacher."

But then "Rock of Ages" saw withering reviews and disappointing ticket sales, and "Jack Reacher" underperformed, with neither film opening at No. 1 at the box office. Now, with Cruise's "Oblivion" set to launch — following an ad campaign relying heavily on the star's bankability — Hollywood finds itself asking the same questions it did before the release of "Ghost Protocol": Can Tom Cruise open a movie?

The last few years have suggested that the age of the movie star may be over, that audiences are no longer swayed merely by the presence of a big name on the poster. In fact, until recently it seemed the only two stars left who could be counted on to open a movie — regardless of

Sci-fi summer

Tom Cruise isn't the only big-name star with something for science-fiction fans this summer — he's just the first out of the gate. But the competition is right behind. Here's what we're most curious about:

'Pacific Rim'

Guillermo del Toro brings giant robots fighting giant monsters to life. Yes, please.

'After Earth'

Can Will Smith's recent career resurgence bolster M. Night Shyamalan as well? After a stint in movie jail, the much-maligned director returns with his biggest film yet, following father-and-son team Will and Jaden as they try to escape a de-

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a movie star?

its content — were Will Smith and Adam Sandler. Smith's "Men in Black 3" was indeed a blockbuster last year, but it was his first starring role in four years. And the generally review-proof Sandler's last two live-action outings, "Jack and Jill" and "That's My Boy," were complete bombs. (It should be noted that "Hotel Transylvania," which featured Sandler's voice, was a hit.)

And so far, 2013 hasn't been very good to traditional movie stars, with major box office flops for "Expendables" stars Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone and Jason Statham.

Bruce Willis' "A Good Day to Die Hard" fared a bit better, at least opening at No. 1, but in eight weeks of release it's still a long ways off from recouping its $92 million budget. Even Brad Pitt, who is hoping June's "World War Z" will do well enough to launch a franchise, took a bath on last November's "Killing Them Softly," which he both starred in and produced.

So if "Oblivion" doesn't do well, does that mean the Tom Cruise brand is officially in trouble? Not likely. As "Ghost Protocol" proved, the star has an uncanny ability to bounce back from both critical failures and tabloid talk. And with the more recent "Oblivion" trailers making the film look more interesting and enticing, maybe Cruise's latest go at saving the world will also save his career. Again.

NED EHRBAR
ned.ehrbar@metro.lu

serted planet Earth 1,000 years in the future.

'World War Z'

The behind-the-scenes drama on this zombie apocalypse extravaganza has threatened to eclipse the film itself, but a recent trailer showing the undead hordes that ravage the globe definitely looks intriguing.

'Star Trek Into Darkness'

OK, we no longer care if Benedict Cumberbatch is playing Khan or not. We just want to see J.J. Abrams' long-awaited follow-up to his 2009 franchise reboot. We are ready to boldly go.

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A real hero, a real human being

Film. Someone named Ryan Gosling talks about "The Place Beyond the Pines," memes and the shame of face tattoos.

Yes, Ryan Gosling is aware of the "Hey girl" meme. When the subject is broached, the actor smiles and squirms in his chair. "Remember when Fabio was on that roller coaster and he got hit in the face by a pigeon?" he jokes. "I kind of feel like that pigeon lately. Wrong place, wrong time."

Gosling is open when talking about his new film, "The Place Beyond the Pines," his second for director Derek Cianfrance. "We were making 'Blue Valentine,'" he remembers, "and I had this cockamamie theory that I could rob a bank and get away with it. I wasn't so afraid of jail. He said that was crazy, that he had just written a movie about that."

In "The Place Beyond the Pines," Gosling plays a carnival motorcycle racer who eventually becomes a bank robber. "He's a pretty surface-level person who is faced with his own lack of depth. I tried not to think too much," he says. The film's scope proves far larger than it initially seems, but Gosling tried to stay in the moment. "[Cianfrance] wants a certain level of naturalism and not pre-planned feelings and responses," he says.

The realism extended to the tiniest detail, including the tattoos. "We wanted to make the tattoos look a mess, from someone who lived a life of not thinking things through," he says. One tattoo is a small dagger hanging off his left eye. "I didn't even want to look at myself in the mirror. When I was holding Tony Pizza, the kid who plays our child, I just felt ashamed this person I created was his father."

To stress authenticity, Cianfrance shot much of the film in long takes and had Gosling rob a bank populated by the actual staff and customers. That could backfire. "I'd look down and everyone's smiling and has their cell phones out, having a good time," he says. "Derek was blaming me, saying I wasn't scary enough."

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Ryan Gosling has a tender moment in "The Place Beyond the Pines."
ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA

Q&A

On 'Drive'

Gosling's most iconic performance to date was in 2011's neo-noir "Drive," where he strutted around in a silk white jacket with a yellow scorpion on the back (sometimes against the lyrics in our headline, from College's "A Real Hero"). "It was my dream to make a character people went out for on Halloween," he says. "I used to go out and see every Johnny Depp character. ... When we did 'Drive,' I was really hoping for that. And people started sending me pictures on Halloween. It was working."

Quoted

"I'd like to do more comedies. Drama is so subjective. Comedy is funny or it's not. There's something about that; they laugh or they don't. It's easier to tell if it's working or not."

Ryan Gosling
On doing more comedies

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ROB THOMAS

'Veronica Mars' creator discusses his out-of-this-world Kickstarter campaign.

'THE KEY TO ACHIEVING CULT STATUS IS BEING ABLE TO HANG ON FOR A WHILE'

Though the "Veronica Mars" movie is not set for release until sometime in 2014, there are only two more days for you to get involved with it. The movie, based on the mid-2000s TV series about a spunky high school private detective played by Kristin Bell, has been enjoying a successful Kickstarter campaign, which ends Friday. At press time, creator Rob Thomas had raised $4.8 million, more than double of what his original goal was. Thomas says that the initial $2 million budget, while seemingly modest, was definitely doable.

"When Kristin and I went into it, we sort of agreed that we would make [what] she called the 'no fancy trailers budget,'" Thomas says.

Bell is signed on, obviously, as is Jason Dohring, who played her boyfriend Logan Echolls. Who else is returning?

We're in negotiations with the other cast members, and I've spoken to all [of them]. Absolutely, people want to do it, and I'm building it around the 10-year high school reunion. Veronica is 28 as we pick up the movie. She has just gotten out of law school at Columbia and starting to interview for jobs in New York law firms.

Why do you think fans have responded to "Veronica Mars"?

The key to achieving cult status is being able to hang on for a while. The fact that we started on UPN, and we were allowed to survive some not terrific numbers for a while was part of the equation because having done ABC, we'd only have been on for two episodes and we would never have been allowed to grow into a cult status.

"Seinfeld" started out with an order of six on a death night, and they allowed that to build. It went beyond cult status. I think being somewhere where no one noticed, where you weren't expected to do good numbers or great numbers, was key, and I think the character Veronica herself was a great fit for UPN. When I first went in there to have a meeting, they told me the direction they wanted to take the network. They said, "We think we're going to skew young and female, and we're looking for female empowerment shows."

I had written "Veronica Mars" a year before on spec. I had just written it for myself because it was an idea I was inspired by. I told them, "Well, I have a script in a drawer at home about a very empowered teenage girl."

What was your reaction to the Kickstarter success you experienced from the "Mars" fans, or "Marshmallows," as they're often called? You hit $2 million within 10 hours.

I was stunned. ... I was pretty confident going into it, but I never thought we'd hit $2 million (in 10 hours). That surpassed my wildest expectations.

What about your other series, "Party Down"? Will you try Kickstarter?

We hope that will become a movie as well, [but] we're not going the Kickstarter route. We're writing a script for an independent production company that we really respect. We hope for good news on that in the next year or so.

MICHELLE CASTILLO
letters@metro.us

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These very skeptical comedians invite you to 'Get Real'

Mike Mesa and Imri Jonas Merritt like to poke fun. / PROVIDED

Laugh. The show sets out to make rational skepticism funny. Just don't call it "atheist comedy."

For years, Imri Jonas Merritt and Mike Mesa were kicking around ideas for a live show highlighting their deep conviction to the tenets of rational skepticism. But alas, it proved difficult to make presenting the tenets of rational skepticism any fun to watch.

Until last year, when Mesa booked Jamie Kilstein — a comedian with a national following — and the pair discovered the most engaging form of rational skepticism out there: stand-up comedy. Merritt promoted the event as "Get Real: Comedy of Skeptical Proportions," filling out the bill with local and national stand-ups who all poked fun at accepted dogma, religious or otherwise.

If you go

"Get Real 3: Comedy Cabaret of Skeptic Proportions"

April 11, 8 p.m. door
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www.undergroundarts.org

"We wanted to stay away from the word 'atheism.' That just seems to create so much division and confusion between people. Besides, 'atheist comedy'? That just doesn't sound very funny," says Merritt. "We want to give these ideas to people in a way that's digestible — sorta fun — and not beating them over the head with it."

The third incarnation of "Get Real" will hit Underground Arts tomorrow, with Sam Singleton performing his trademark "Patriarchs & Penises" one-man show. Singleton is the alter ego of writer/actor Robert Scott Jackson, and represents a departure from the exclusively stand-up approach of the "Get Real" series thus far.

"[Comedy clubs] have very tiny stages and strict formats, but we always wanted to do different kinds of things. With Underground Arts, the venue is so flexible," says Merritt. "We can do sketch, storytelling, comedy [and] music, and they're not going to kick us out when the show is over. So we can make more of a night of it, which is what we always wanted to do."

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Trapeze. Fly School Circus Arts is offering lessons as part of PIFA.

Attempt a mid-air catch right across the street from the Kimmel. / HUGHE DILLON

If you're going to glide through the air, hanging on to a trapeze bar for dear life, it might as well be on Broad Street smack-dab in the middle of the city. OK, maybe it's not actually for dear life. There is a net, which the Fly School Circus Arts crew will help you lower yourself onto once you've completed your kicks and flips. Whether it's a graceful landing is up to you.

Mary Kelly Rayel, who attended Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College, and her Fly School team are set up in the empty University of the Arts lot across from the Kimmel Center all month, offering daily lessons as part of the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts. And while it might have been a little chilly to go for a fly last week, with spring finally here there's no excuse not to strap yourself in. The 7 p.m. weekday time slot is filling up thanks to the warmer weather, Rayel says, but daytime weekday lessons still have plenty of openings. Weekends are selling out.

It's not as scary as it looks.
HUGHE DILLON

The two-hour classes, offered through April 27, are $55 and open to anyone 6 and up and under 250 pounds. No circus experience is necessary. Some high flyers are "addicted" and keep signing up, says Caitlyn Larsson of Fly School, but novices are welcome at every session, too.

Rayel says she hasn't had anyone show up and then chicken out. But for those who just can't make the leap, check out Fly School's evening trapeze performances April 25 and 26.

RACHEL VIGODA
rachel.vigoda@metro.us

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Cupcake Carnivale
Lucky Old Souls
The Sunflower Truck Stop

12pm: XPN Philly Local Wednesdays at The Porch
wxpn 88.5
4/10: The Fleeting Ends
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Matthew Weiner knows what you're saying about 'Mad Men'

TV. The "Mad Men" creator takes Internet reactions to his show so seriously that he's banned from reading them.

A word of caution to angry Internet commenters and recappers: "Mad Men" creator Matthew Weiner knows what you're writing about his show. Or at least he used to until he was banned from visiting blogs and sites by his wife and writing staff.

"This is a terrible job for someone as oversensitive as I am. When I was on 'The Sopranos,' [blogs] didn't even exist," Weiner says. "I try and stay away from it. What usually happens now is somebody — a friend — will send me something. And it's still this addiction."

As an example, he offers an episode from last season, "Signal 30," that garnered some reactions he didn't appreciate. "It was Vincent [Kartheiser]'s performance, you know, when he's in the elevator and says, 'We're supposed to be friends. I have nothing,'" Weiner remembers. "That to me is like the saddest thing I ever wrote. I was very emotional about it, and when it aired people are like, 'A Pete story. I hate that.' So I just try and stay away from that stuff as much as possible."

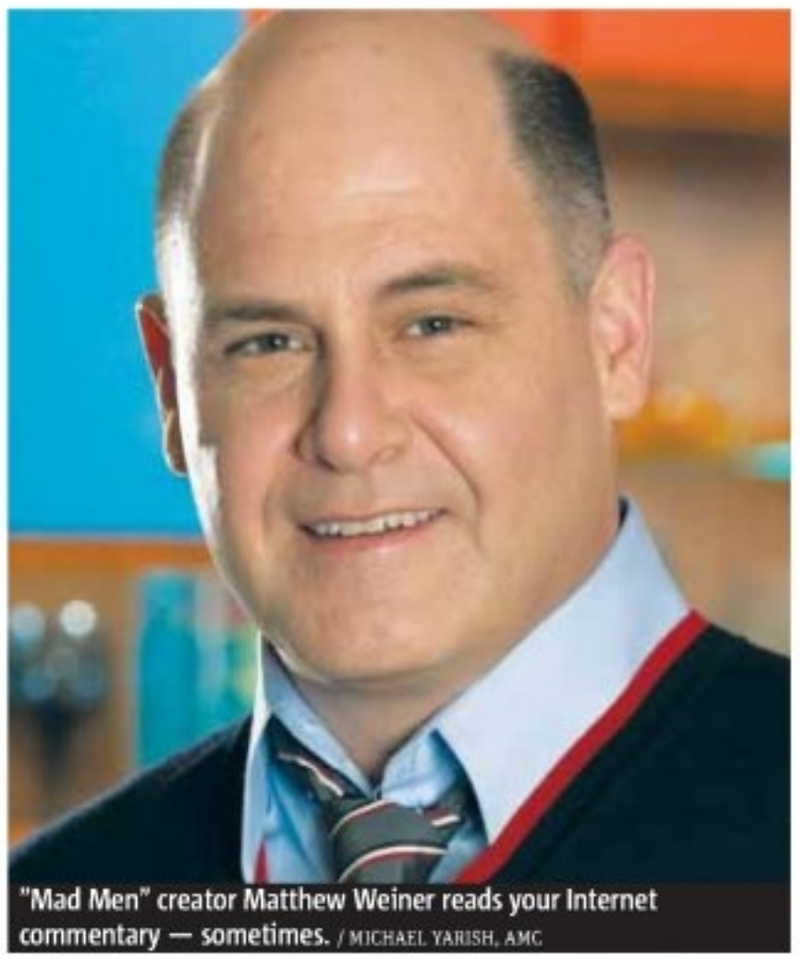
Hence came the banning. And he's been good for the most part, but he did slip up a few times last season. "I really was off it for a while, and then [the Season 4 episode] 'The Suitcase' happened and everyone was like, 'You have to read what people said about this thing,'" he says. "So I read it and I loved that episode, but the episode that was on the week after that was actually my favorite of the season, 'The Summer Man.' It's a very emotional story for me. So of course I read [the reactions] the next week and it's, like, brutal.

"The immediate response is, you know, hatred, anger, disgust, betrayal. And I kind of am like, I can't believe I let these strangers hurt me."

Quoted

"This is a terrible job for someone as oversensitive as I am. When I was on 'The Sopranos,' [blogs] didn't even exist. I try and stay away from it."

Matthew Weiner, creator of "Mad Men"
On why he doesn't read what people write about his show



"Mad Men" creator Matthew Weiner reads your Internet commentary — sometimes. / MICHAEL YARISH, AMC

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EDUCATION TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT

TV watch list

"Nova" explores Australia's first four billion years. / RICHARD SMITH

REALITY

'Toy Hunter'

We're waiting for an episode that features toy dealer Jordan Hembrough having a sudden realization that he is in his 40s.

SEASON PREMIERE, 9 P.M., TRAVEL

NEWSMAGAZINE

'Nova'

A scientific history of Australia's first four billion years. Worth it for the explanation of why water in the toilet spins backward. **9 P.M., PBS**

REALITY

'I Want That'

Detailed instructions on what to buy to stick it to the Joneses. **SEASON PREMIERE, 11 P.M., DIY.**

REALITY

'Haunted Collector'

Paranormal investigators scope out household objects with weird vibes to determine if they are haunted. Are ghosts so hard-pressed for real estate these days that they're forced to live in lamps? **9 P.M., SYFY.**

NATALIE SHURE

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Looking at tradition with 'Defiance': This a TV show and a video game

Television. You've seen games based on shows and shows based on games, but how about a mixed platform?

This certainly looks like an interesting experiment gone awry. Producers are hoping their own experiment for "Defiance" goes better.
REUTERS, TRION WORLDS

Science-fiction drama "Defiance" wants to go where no television series has gone before, weaving a show with an online video game to achieve the elusive goal of parlaying success from one entertainment platform to another.

The new series, which premieres on U.S. cable channel Syfy on April 15, tells the story of frontier town Defiance, formerly St. Louis, in the near future following a 30-year war between humans and seven alien races.

Syfy last week released a multiplayer, plot-based video game, developed with Trion Worlds, that lets users build their own personas and explore the landscape of a reshaped Earth.

Spinning a film or TV series into a video game, or vice versa, is nothing new. But producers say "Defiance" is the first to weave both game and show together at the same time.

Known in the entertainment industry as the "second screen," the concept lets viewers engage with a show on a second platform on which networks pin hopes for additional advertising sales and cementing a dedicated fan base.

"What's unusual about what we're doing ... is we're building the second-screen concept into the actual DNA of the show/game combo," "Defiance" executive producer Kevin Murphy said.

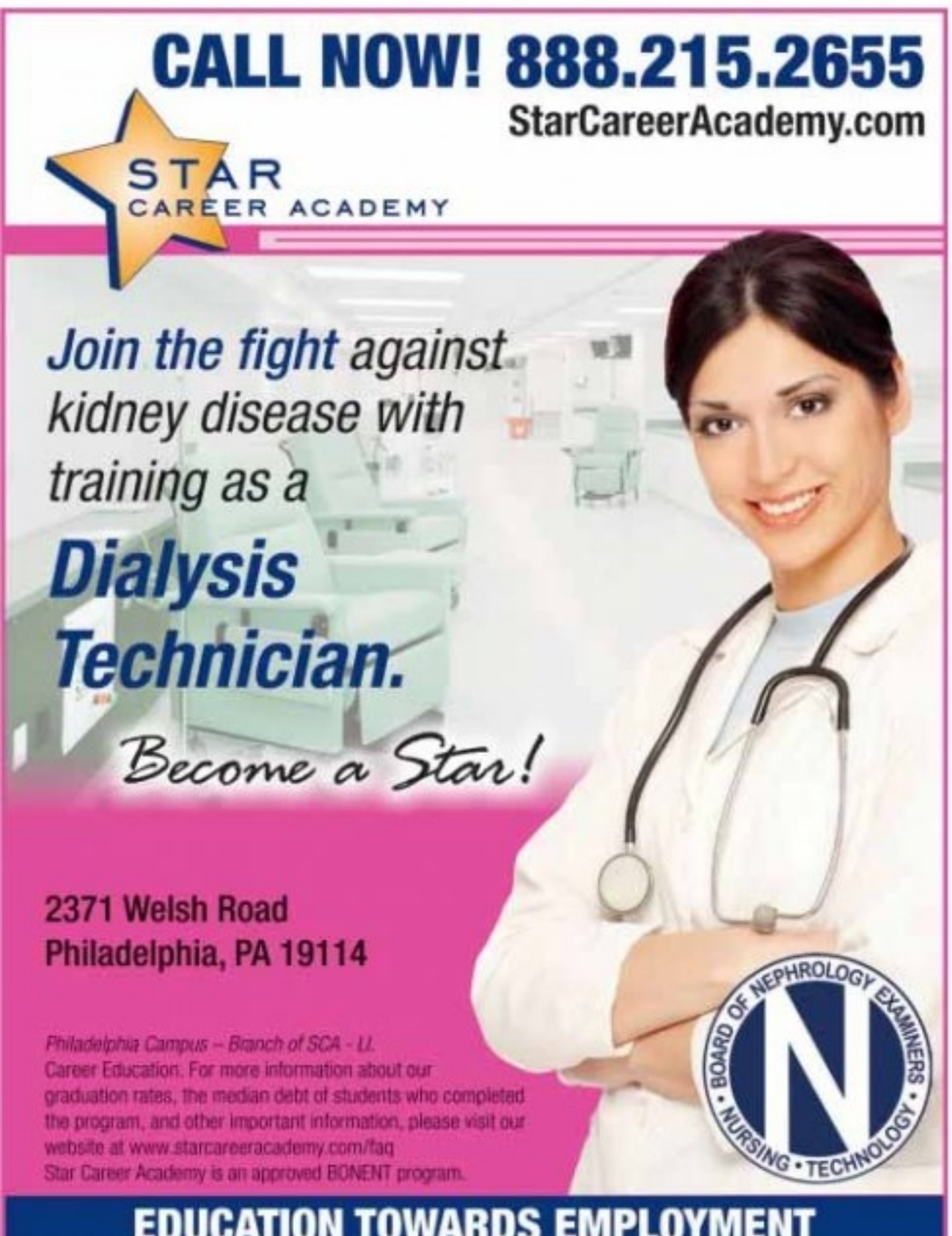
"We're working to make a terrific serialized drama that stands on its own, but we understand that what has people watching us is the fact that this cross-platform promotional is something very, very desirable." REUTERS

Experiment

The future?

"Defiance" will be a guinea pig for the viability of merging media like video games with TV shows.

"Nobody has done this before, that's the scary part," said Murphy. "The wonderful part is that there's nobody to say, 'No!' ... It's something [Syfy president] Dave Howe always refers to as 'the holy grail of entertainment.'"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Fans think Cher died after Thatcher hashtag trends

Not to worry: Cher's still going strong. / GETTY IMAGES

No, Cher fans, the singer and actress did not die. The Twitter hashtag "#nowthatchersdead" is meant to be read as "now Thatcher's dead" — not "now that Cher's dead."

Margaret Thatcher, the United Kingdom's former prime minister, died Monday at age 87 following a stroke. A website named Is Thatcher Dead Yet? quickly reacted, encouraging people to reveal how they're celebrating the death via tweets with hashtag #nowthatchersdead.

The hashtag sparked confusion and humor about Cher, the 66-year-old who has amassed 1.4 million Twitter followers with her quirky and sometimes nonsensical tweets.

BRIAN ANTHONY HERNANDEZ FOR
Mashable
The Social Media Guide

Tweets

Some of the tweets:

- **@CARRICKISMYICON: I'm very confused with the hashtag #nowthatchersdead.** Did Cher Die?
- **@nickmulligan: I can't believe that Cher is dead.** Do you believe in life after love?
- **@sexyghosts: RIP Cher.** Just saw the hashtag. Never was a fan myself but you've got to respect her influence.

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Beat your allergies this year

Tips. We asked immunologist Dr. Jennifer Collins from the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary for advice.

This can be you — just follow our advice! / GETTY IMAGES, ZOONAR RF

Warm weather at the start of the year caused early pollination in some trees, exacerbating conditions for allergy sufferers and raising expectations that 2013 will see increased seasonal allergies. Combat yours with Dr. Collins' tips:

Know what you're allergic to: "An immunologist can test you and then give specific advice and effective treatment. I see people who have suffered for years and don't have to."

Manage with medications: "Many over-the-counter medications work fine, but consult your doctor. Steroids help with inflammation. They can stop acute allergies from becoming chronic. Allergy shots are effective. They introduce a small amount of an allergen and build gradually to trick the body."

Limit exposure to allergens at home: "Pollen levels are highest between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m., so close your windows. Make sure AC filters are clean and working effectively. Wipe animals down with a washcloth when you come in. Washing your sheets in hot water and regular cleaning will help, too."

Sign up for alerts or get an app: "Lots of websites offer email alerts, and there are apps, too. They help you prepare for bad days."

Achoo got?

Cold or allergy?

"Symptoms can be difficult to differentiate, because they include itchy eyes, runny nose — even itchy ears. You might get a sore throat, hives or welts, and sometimes asthma or coughing. Allergies can cause you to be more susceptible to infection and can actually make you more vulnerable to a cold," says Dr. Collins.

Survey says ...

- A Claritin survey found that 24 percent of people miss work due to seasonal allergy symptoms — on average four days in the past year.

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

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Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21 - April 20. You'll do your best work with enterprises you originate or can personally control.

♉ Taurus | April 21 - May 21. The beginning of a very interesting cycle could be underway. The first instance of it will be someone going out of his or her way to repay a kindness.

♊ Gemini | May 22 - June 20. An endeavor that you have high hopes for is likely to take a turn for the better.

♋ Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Don't despair if one of your projects isn't turning out to be as grandiose as you hoped. It may just need a bit more tweaking to make it perfect.

♌ Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. This might be the perfect day to light the fuse on something that you expect to be very influential.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Transformations are developing that could have a good effect on your financial status.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Someone whose influence exceeds yours is beginning to view you as a possible partner.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Continue to perform in ways that could impress your superiors, because they likely have their eyes on you.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. People of all types are likely to be drawn to you because, perhaps without you even realizing it, you'll have an exciting charisma.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. The lucky feeling you have is likely to be accurate. Rely on it.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. If you have some innovative ideas or plans that you would like to develop, go for it.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Although your financial trends may have been erratic lately, you should relax. Some stabilizing influences are starting to enter the picture.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

4							6	9
			4		2	5	7	
7					3	8		
9		3			8	6		
6				1				8
		8	5			3		7
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	2	1	9		4			
8	9							2

	5	9	6	1				2
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6				5	7		8	
		7				5		
	8		3	9				4
8		4						
9	3		8					
7				3	6	9	4	

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Trouble on two wheels or four

Re: "There's only room for one on the road" (Metro, April 5-7) I am a cyclist and a driver. I moved to the city four years ago. I have seen it all, including cars that disregard cyclists and cyclists that ride like maniacs. Until the police crack down on both and force them to obey the laws, both will continue to be dangerous! I watched a cab driver harass a cyclist up a side street because the cyclist wasn't moving fast enough. I have almost been hit by both a car and a cyclist while walking in a crosswalk while the light was green. I have seen both cars and cyclists blow through stop signs and red lights without stopping.
MARY GERRY, VIA E-MAIL

Re: "Bikers need to follow the law" (Metro, April 9) I totally agree with letter writer Rose la Maida when she put the bikers on blast. There should be laws for bikers who uses the same space as cars. Why should we have to drive below the speed limit for bicyclists who wants to drive slow because they know we have to share the road with them?
KAREN SMITH, VIA E-MAIL

Smoking out facts

Cigarettes are responsible for about 443,000 deaths per year. Marijuana is responsible for almost zero. Letter writer Andy Bellizzi's statement that marijuana is worse than cigarettes is baseless. Mr. Bellizzi's other claim is that legalized marijuana will possibly lead to more traffic accidents. While he is correct, he seems to forget alcohol. Alcohol is perfectly legal to buy, yet we endure story after story of families ruined by drunken driving. This really blunts his argument. MARK SNEED, VIA E-MAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them a brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Crossword

Across
1 Pageant figures
5 Courtyards
10 – de vivre
14 Stratford's river
15 Lunch periods
16 Wrist-to-elbow bone
17 Honey wine
18 Info-packed
19 Israel's Golda –
20 Demanding
22 Brewing needs
24 Army off.
25 Mao – -tung
26 Slow mover
29 Mongrel
32 Stoles
36 Container weight
37 Beethoven opus
39 Gullible person
40 Secure (4 wds.)
43 Prior to yr. 1
44 Shoelace hole
45 Kind of admiral
46 Feudal workers
48 Tulip color
49 Decorated with parsley
50 "– take forever!"
52 Russian jet
53 Obeyed the dentist
57 Pools
61 Track meet event
62 Perk up
64 Tony's cousin
65 Wait in neutral
66 Biscotto flavoring
67 Singer – Hendryx
68 Company VIPs
69 B-vitamin source
70 Strike one as

Down
1 "Motorcycle –"
2 Confirm
3 Incite
4 New Hall-of-Famer
5 Cancel
6 "Little piggies"
7 Tough – to hoe
8 Part of MIT
9 Up till now (2 wds.)
10 Kind of cable
11 Butter substitute
12 – – for the money
13 Headphones
21 "– -la-la!"
23 Lake Nasser's dam
26 Ticket remnants
27 Galahad's weapon
28 Decree
29 Pigeon or dove
30 Male relative
31 Did a lawn chore
33 Grant applicant
34 Joyous outburst
35 "Heidi" author
37 Sneaky
38 Edge a doily
41 Stretches out
42 Cavalry members
47 Casts a fly
49 Rock-band booking
51 Postpone
52 "Luncheon on the Grass" painter
53 S&L protector
54 Do dock work
55 Fjord port
56 Wine's partner
57 Minus
58 Plaintive reed
59 WXY, on a phone
60 Pants feature
63 Travel word

Yesterday's answer

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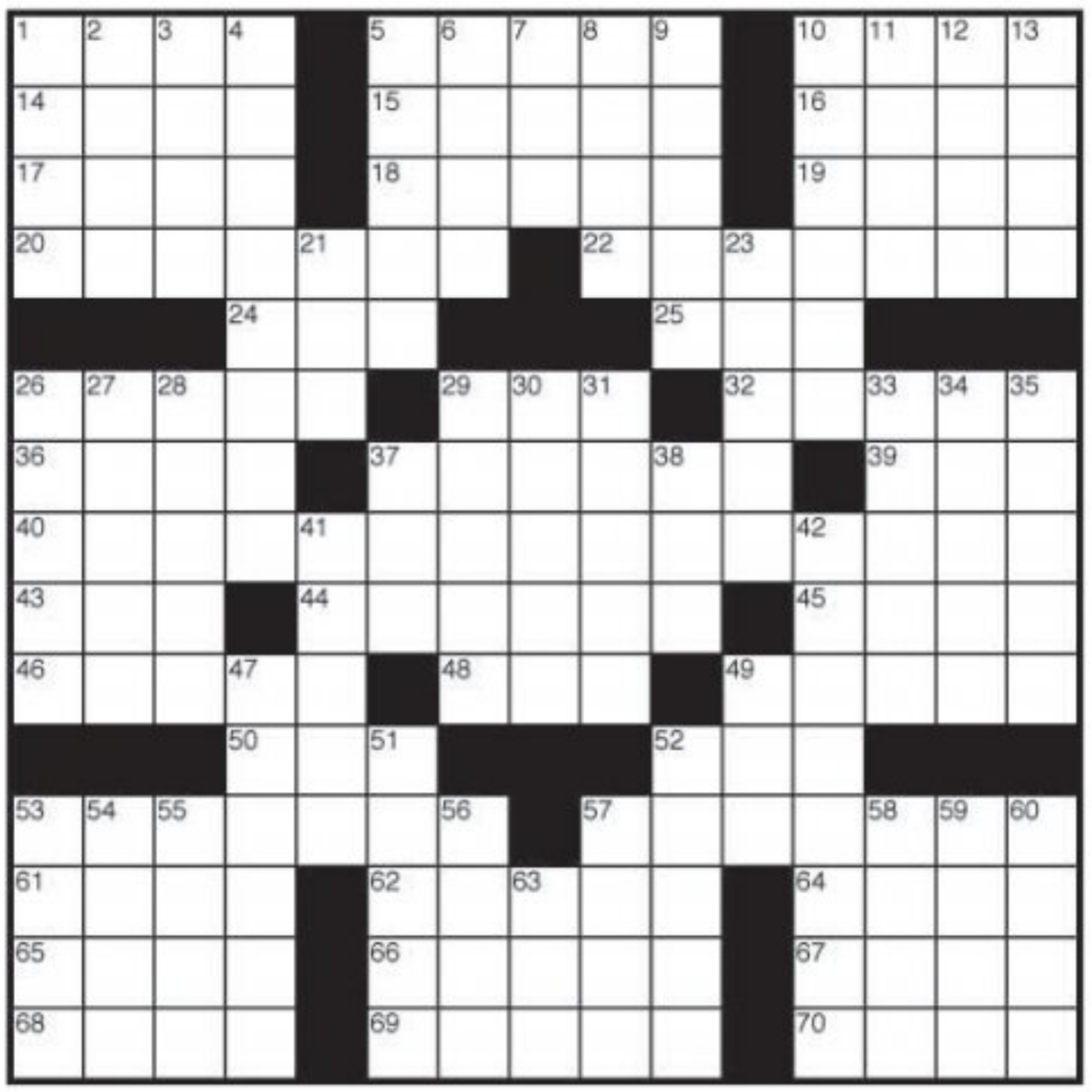

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Five green decorating options

Decor. Spruce up your place without causing havoc to the environment.

Spring home projects don't have to mean increasing the toxic load on the planet or in your abode. We've rounded up some sensible tools and eco-friendly products with less negative impact on the health of your home and the planet (which, by the way, are kind of the same thing).

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

Choose a green-friendly brand when revamping walls

Choosing paint colors and wallpapers is the fun part of room makeovers. But unwrap a roll of wallpaper or uncap a can of paint, and the room is filled with obnoxious ink fumes. Farrow & Ball's crafted paints are traditionally made nonacrylic paints with more natural ingredients and extremely low VOCs (volatile organic compounds). Their wallpapers use eco-friendly FSC-approved paper and are printed with Farrow & Ball's own low VOC water-based paint. Utilizing more water-based, rather than oil-based, paints benefits the environment both in production and waste disposal. (www.farrow-ball.com) / CONTRIBUTED

Envirobrush

Every year, in North America alone, more than 500 million used paintbrushes end up in landfills. Usually, the only part that needs replacing is the bristles. Kwick Clean and Green Envirobrush is the forever brush. Its replaceable bristle head means also avoiding brush-cleaning solvents and allows for easy mid-job paint color changeover. (Brushes from $6, refills from $4, www.envirobrush.com) / CONTRIBUTED

PLUS

Get this!

X3 Watering Can

A must-have for the indoor gardener: the sleek new lightweight X3 Watering Can by Paul Loebach. It's constructed using a single metal tube and comes in a variety of colors. (From $49, www.kontextur.com)

Go nontoxic

Franmar Chemical's SOY Gel Paint and Urethane Remover is an effective, nontoxic, odor-free alternative for removing old paint from walls and varnish from wood floors. It's also harmless to skin and safe to use indoors. The soy-based product removes paints, urethanes, acrylics, epoxies and enamels, and it is ideal for lead-based paints. Its thick gel consistency prevents the lead from escaping into the air. (Available at Rockler Hardware, $21 for a quart, www.rockler.com) / CONTRIBUTED

Find smart solutions

Take the drama out of painting with the Mixing Mate. This nifty paint-can lid makes mixing paint easy via a turbine operated with a simple crank. It virtually eliminates drips and spills, and it provides easy storage for unused paint. Less mess means less cleanup, which means less water consumption and less paint in the water supply — plus fewer messy stir sticks in the landfill. ($20 for a gallon, $15 for a quart, www.rockler.com) / CONTRIBUTED

Opt for sustainable wood tools

Tackle projects with the ultra-stylish Areaware Wood Tool Set. It's made from sustainable, harvested new-growth beech wood and includes a level, 36-inch folding ruler, LED flashlight and screwdriver. ($95, www.westelmmarket.com) / CONTRIBUTED

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How to buy an antique

More than 60 antiques and art galleries from up and down the East Coast will display wares at the Philadelphia Antiques Show. / DANIEL BURKE PHOTOGRAPHY

Take a look at the Philadelphia Antiques Show.
DANIEL BURKE PHOTOGRAPHY

Collecting. A fine arts expert tells us what to look for.

It's out with the new, in with the old this weekend at the 52nd annual Philadelphia Antiques Show. Antiques and fine arts experts from up and down the East Coast will showcase pieces from the 1600s to the 1900s, while guided tours and a series of lectures help the novices learn the difference between Chippendale and Queen Anne.

We checked in with one of those experts, Christopher Rebollo of Christopher T. Rebollo Antiques in Buckingham, Pa., for tips on what to buy.

Trust your instincts

"Buy what resonates with you. The opinions of design school professors and home decorating magazine editors are just that, their opinions. If Victorian seating set ablaze with jewel-tone cut velvet floats your boat, who are we to sneer? Be a rebel."

Educate yourself

"At least half the fun of collecting is learning why the objects are made a certain way or look the way they do. Learn why some Newport, R.I., high chests are made with detachable legs — much easier to export by sea to far-flung ports — and why a specific glass bottle should always feature a rough pontil mark."

Buy the best you can afford

"This bit of advice is admittedly cliche, though for good reason. The Boston dealer Israel Sack once wrote in his 'Ten Commandments of Antiques' that 'bargains in antiques are sometimes fatal.' He was likely referring to the purchase of either a fake or a heavily restored piece bought cheap. While this is still a concern for anyone not relying on expert advice, it is equally important to resist the mediocre. It's better to own a masterpiece with some appropriate restorations than an all-original pig."

Seek art, not cash

"There is entirely too much emphasis placed on price. It's off-putting. Yes, it is fun to see the proverbial little old lady hit the jackpot on an appraisal program. Unfortunately, this publicity promotes the fallacy that art and antiques are out of reach for everyone except for the super-rich or, worse, that collectors should focus on investment potential rather than the art itself. This is supposed to be fun."

RACHEL VIGODA
rachel.vigoda@metro.us

Aim to enjoy

Don't discount sentimental value

"It's tempting in the 'Antiques Roadshow' world to think anything resembling an antique is worth a fortune," says Steven Chait of Ralph M. Chait Galleries in Manhattan. "Most often it will not be, but it may still have monetary value and intrinsic worth to keep the owner pleased. People should aim to enjoy the piece they have for its own sake."

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Just Reduced

1

Paul Smith

Sky-blue check-patch pocket jacket, $820, www.paulsmith.co.uk

2

Alexander McQueen

Slim-fit check wool blazer, $1,620, www.mrporter.com

Full checkered jacket

'Tis the season for some peppy style with fine tailoring. We round up the best of the selection in stores for spring.

RICHARD PECKETT
richard.peckett@metro.lu

Let's start with the obvious: The checked sports jacket is not subtle. It was once the preserve of country club types, 80s bankers and men too old to care about modesty. However, these days most urbanites are willing to subscribe to more outre outfits, and this natty number is certainly one way to go about it. The cut, as with most modern tailoring, is slimmer — making it the perfect partner for chinos or shorts for the summer months.

3

Zara

Double-breasted linen blazer, $189, www.zara.com

Topman

Blue-and-green tartan blazer, $220, www.topman.com

4

Maison Kitsune

Checked cotton jacket, $914, www.brownsfashion.com

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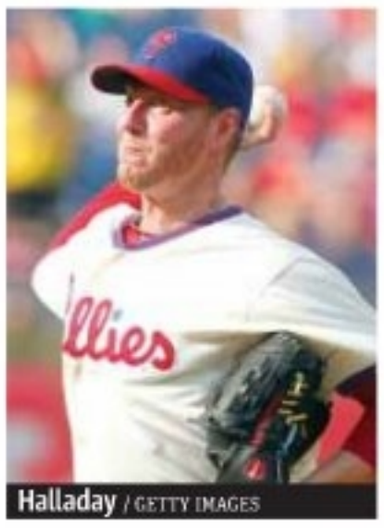
Manuel sticks with Halladay

MLB. The Phillies' ace is struggling, but opposing teams aren't counting him out yet either.


Halladay / GETTY IMAGES

Roy Halladay is struggling. He's losing ball games, but he hasn't lost respect.

"I have to admit that it was surreal going up against Roy Halladay," Mets pitcher Matt Harvey said. "I grew up watching him, and it was just amazing competing against him."

Harvey, a young, right-handed phenom, dominated the Phillies and beat his idol.

"No matter what you say, he's still Doc," Mets catcher John Buck said. "He's been a great pitcher for years and he's still a great pitcher."

Buck blasted a three-run homer off Halladay that proved to be the difference in Monday's Mets win, but he still spoke of the scuffling starter with reverence.

The same goes for manager Charlie Manuel, who will continue to pitch Halladay every fifth day even though he is 0-2 with a 14.73 ERA.

"I saw David Price the other day, and as good as he is, [the Indians] started whacking him around," Manuel said. "When that bat, that Louisville [slugger bat] starts talking to you, sometimes you can't get it off of you."

ED CONDRAN
sports@metro.us

Young fitting right into Phillies' order

Michael Young, who had a big game Sunday against the Royals, feels comfortable. "I love where I'm at now," Young said. "I feel really good. I think this team is ready to bust out on a winning streak." / BRIAN GARFINKEL, GETTY IMAGES

3 SPORTS

Unarmed

Weaver breaks arm

A broken arm is never a good thing for a pitcher, but at least Angels ace Jered Weaver only fractured his non-throwing arm. Weaver, who has finished in the Top 5 in Cy Young voting three straight years, is expected to miss at least a month. Weaver injured the arm trying to avoid a line drive against the Rangers on Sunday.

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Frequent Flyers: Welcoming old players back into the fold

NHL. The Flyers have developed a reputation for bringing back former players.

Mike Knuble, left, and Simon Gagne were teammates here in 2007 and are back together again in 2013. / MIKE STOBE, GETTY IMAGES

Simon Gagne joining Ruslan Fedotenko and Mike Knuble — with good soldier Brian Boucher waiting in the wings — is only the latest in a tradition that may be unlike any other. Rick MacLeish, Bernie Parent, Mark Recchi, Rick Tocchet and Ron Hextall are among those who have previously blazed a trail here in the birthplace of our nation.

You can call them Frequent Flyers.

"Of course we think about it," admitted team founder-turned Comcast-Spectacor chairman Ed Snider. "It's not an accident. If there are several guys available who can help us that are equal and one is an ex-player, we'll take that ex-player every time."

That's why Philadelphia has become the place they often flock to in their golden hockey years. Old Flyers don't die — they just fade away as older Flyers.

Once in a while — as in the cases of Parent, Recchi and Hextall — the sequel measures up to the opening act. More often, it doesn't play out that way.

"I think you do appreciate it more after you've been away," said the 40-year-old Knuble. "If somebody said then, 'You'll be back someday,' I think I would've been very excited about that. As a player, you hope to feel connected to your organization."

JON MARKS
sports@metro.us

Analysis

All about the fans

Gagne, a Flyers mainstay for 10 years, returned this season after hoisting the Stanley Cup in Los Angeles.

"It's not an easy place to play," said Gagne. "It's demanding, but, at the same time, if you do well it's a great place to play. It's like coming back home."

And hearing fans always urging them on serves as motivation.

"What's great is you still have those great fans who support you and kind of remember you from 10 years ago," said Fedotenko, who won two Cups between Flyers tours.

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Flyers crest

Wearing the colors proudly

What's so special about being a Flyer? After all, the organization is going on 38 years between Stanley Cups.

It starts with what Knuble calls the crest.

"The crest and the colors kind of speak for themselves, and it's kind of an intimidating logo," said Knuble, back after a three-year hiatus in Washington. "That old logo has a lot of history behind it. When you're wearing it, you don't want to embarrass yourselves because of that history. A lot of great players have come through here. So you try to wear that crest proudly."

"If you've grown up here you know what's expected of you here, and what it means to be a Flyer," said Boucher. JON MARKS

Flyers. Is Ed Snider loyal to his former players to a fault?

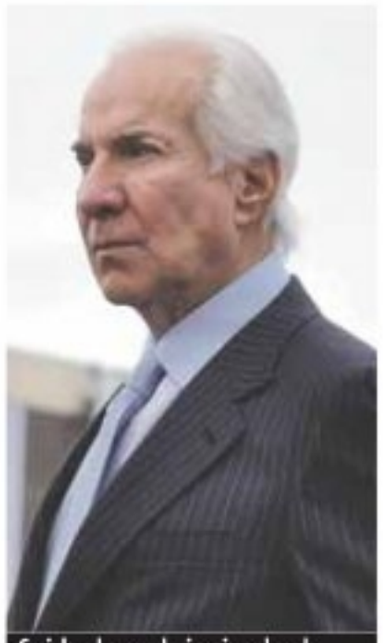
Flyers founder Ed Snider makes no secret that he delights in filling his organization with his own. Through the decades the franchise has continuously brought back former players usually nearing the end of the line — as if somehow hoping to regain their old form once they put that orange-and-black sweater back on.

"We look after our people," Snider told Metro. "That's our philosophy. We like to take care of our own if we can. I take a lot of pride in that."

You might argue Snider and Co. are so caught up in that mind-set they are living in the past. They love celebrating that past, never more evident than the love fest which accompanied last year's Alumni Game at the 2012 Winter Classic.

But it's going on 38 years and counting since Bob Clarke, Bernie Parent, Bill Barber and Co. last hoisted the Stanley Cup.

"We're not gonna bring back a player if we think we can bring in somebody else better," said Snider, "but we know our guys." JON MARKS



Snider loves bringing back players. / RIKARD LARMA, METRO

Roll call

The number of former great Flyers brought back to the organization after leaving is long. We take a look at the list:

- **Front office:** Paul Holmgren, Bob Clarke, John Paddock, Dave Brown
- **Coaches and scouts:** Craig Berube, Kevin McCarthy, Derian Hatcher, Al Hill, Simon Nolet, Ilkka Sinisalo, Mark Greig, Jack McIlhargey, Ross Fitzpatrick, Bill Barber
- **Forwards:** Rick MacLeish, Ken Linseman, Rick Tocchet, Mark Recchi, Mikael Renberg, Vinny Prospal, Ruslan Fedotenko, Mike Knuble, Simon Gagne
- **Defensemen:** Kjell Samuelsson, Kevin McCarthy, Darren Rumble, Steve Duchesne, Jim Vandermeer, Dmitry Yushkevich
- **Goalies:** Pete Peeters, Ron Hextall, Sean Burke, Brian Boucher

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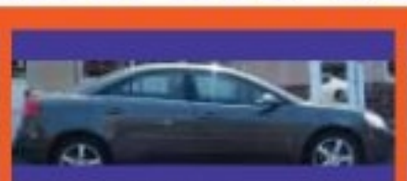
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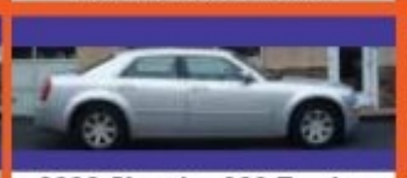
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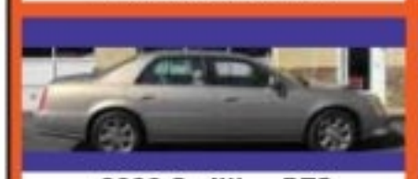
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PPL Park offers up plenty of convenience, according to GM Mike Scanlon. / GETTY IMAGES

Conveniency key to Union's plan to draw more fans

Union. The MLS team is stepping up efforts to get people out to the stadium.

The Broad Street line is a Philadelphia sports-fan staple when it comes to attending a sporting event. Slide your token through the turnstile, wait for the orange-seated bullet heading southbound and you're at the gates to the stadium of your choosing within minutes.

For the newest member to the Philadelphia sports scene, the Union, it's been an adjustment period in terms of getting fans out to their beautiful stadium — PPL Park in Chester.

SEPTA has worked closely with the Union to give fans of the blue and gold accommodating and convenient options for their commute on game day.

"We try to make the best possible fan experience that we can to and from the games," said SEPTA press officer Kristen Geiger. "We have our Wilmington/Newark regional rail line, and another option would be taking a trolley to the Chester Transportation Center. That stop is actually located at 6th and Welsh Street, and there is free shuttle service from there to PPL Park and back."

PPL Park is located along the Delaware River in Chester, right underneath the Commodore Barry Bridge. The Union front office and SEPTA work tirelessly to ensure that the 18,500-seat stadium gets packed for every game and that the customers can have the best possible experience while commuting to and from games.

General manager of PPL Park, Mike Scanlon, says that he can ensure fans a pleasant experience no matter how high the stakes of a game may be.

"We've been at, near or max capacity for most of our games, and winning always helps," said Scanlon. "What we try to do here is the total experience for fans. We focus on the stadium itself, the game and the staff the most. We can't control what happens on the pitch, but we can control everything outside of that. We focus on things like traffic, having a friendly staff and, of course, making sure your beers are cold. Just the overall costumer experience."

The Union currently stand at 2-2-1, good for fifth in the Eastern Conference standings. They face Toronto FC this Saturday in Chester at 4 p.m.

Philly will also host Seattle on May 4, Los Angeles on May 15, Chicago on May 18, Columbus on June 5 and New York on June 23.

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"We can't control what happens on the pitch, but we can control everything outside of that."

General Manager of PPL Park Mike Scanlon, on the fan experience at Union soccer games

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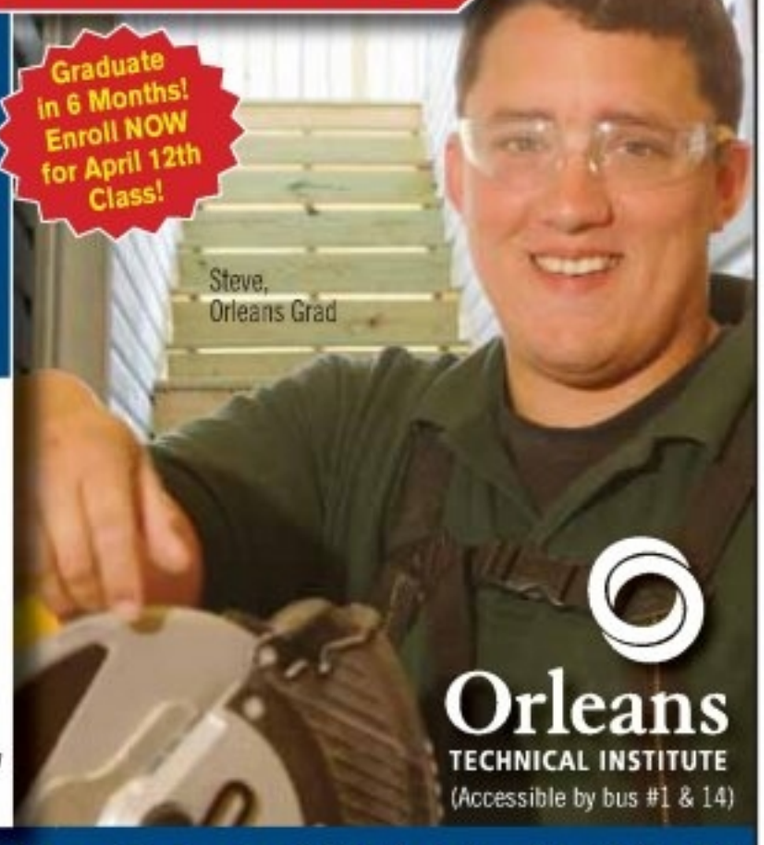

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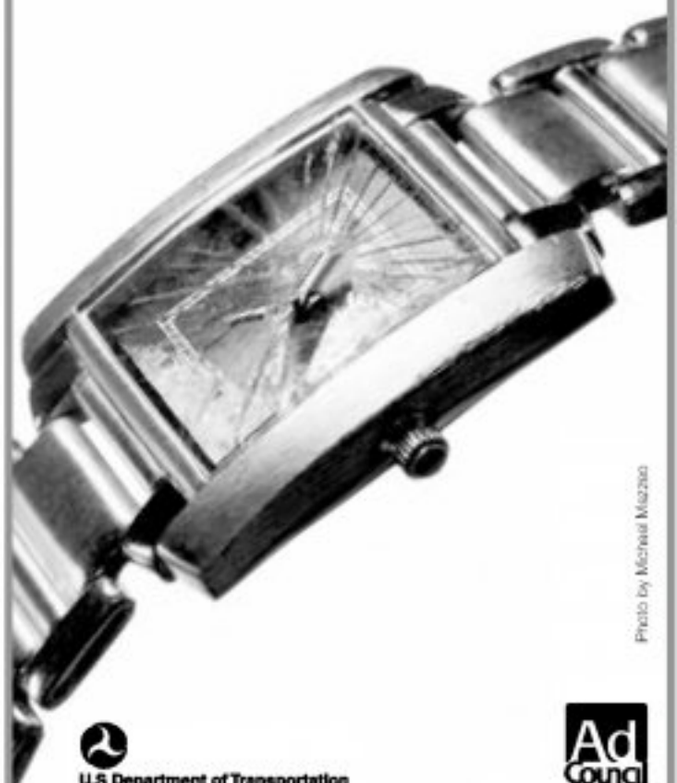

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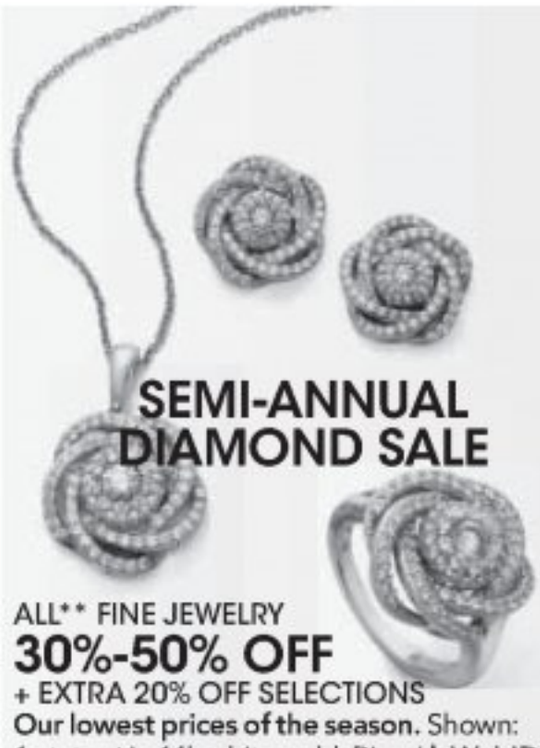

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